

WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER – The Landscape Project (September, 2020)

Yellowstone County Commissioners - Don Jones, John Ostlund, and Denis Pitman

Yellowstone County Finance - Kevan Bryan and Jennifer Jones

Presented by Kevin Kooistra, Executive Director, Western Heritage Center

SUMMARY: Over the years, the Western Heritage Center, through a combination of grants, private donations, and Yellowstone County support, completed landscaping projects on three sides of the Parmly Billings' Library building property. We received financial support for our back parking area, the front of the museum and around the Frederick Billings' statue, replacement of the front steps, placed a heating coil under the front patio and steps, and updated landscaping on the east side of the property when we moved in the J.K. Ralston cabin studio. With the 50th anniversary of the Western Heritage Center and 120th anniversary of the historical Parmly Billings Library, our home base, being celebrated in 2021, we are targeting the west side of the building for needed improvements for 2021. We removed the low juniper shrubs and last patch of grass on the west side last year. We will remove the large tree encroaching the building's foundation and completely change the character of the west side of the property. After careful review, while working with Land Design, Inc., museum staff and board of directors, we've decided to match the west side of the property with the front of the building's landscaping near the Frederick Billings' statue to create a unified look to the grounds.

DESIGN: We received a generous donation from Land Design, Inc. (LDI principal is Stacey Robinson) to have professional landscape plans drawn up for the grounds, an estimated value of \$8,000. Megan Terry is the Project Manager. The design process took a few months as museum staff and Board of Directors contributed comments after reviewing three design proposals from Land Design, Inc. We choose the most modest plan, but one that matches the landscaping we already have in place. Commissioner Pitman also came to the museum for a walk through of the project.

LANDSCAPE PROJECT: Preliminary drawings are completed and attached. Western Heritage Center will be providing the content (text and pictures) for 4 interpretive panels. With these, Land Design, Inc. will complete graphic layout of 4 interpretive panels suitable for printing in an exterior-grade panel. Land Design, Inc. will add another \$5,000 for the implementation stage of the project. We received a private cash donation of \$30,000 in support of the Landscape Project. The landscape project will cost \$110,000. The museum is in need of raising \$80,000 to make the project come to realization. We are in contact with Montana Rail Link for potential support. We will solicit for other local granting support. We are asking for support of \$40,000 from Yellowstone County to help us toward completing the funding. We see any support from Yellowstone County as paramount toward the completion of the project and our ability to complete the fund-raising.

LANDSCAPE PROJECT DRAWINGS (Page 1)



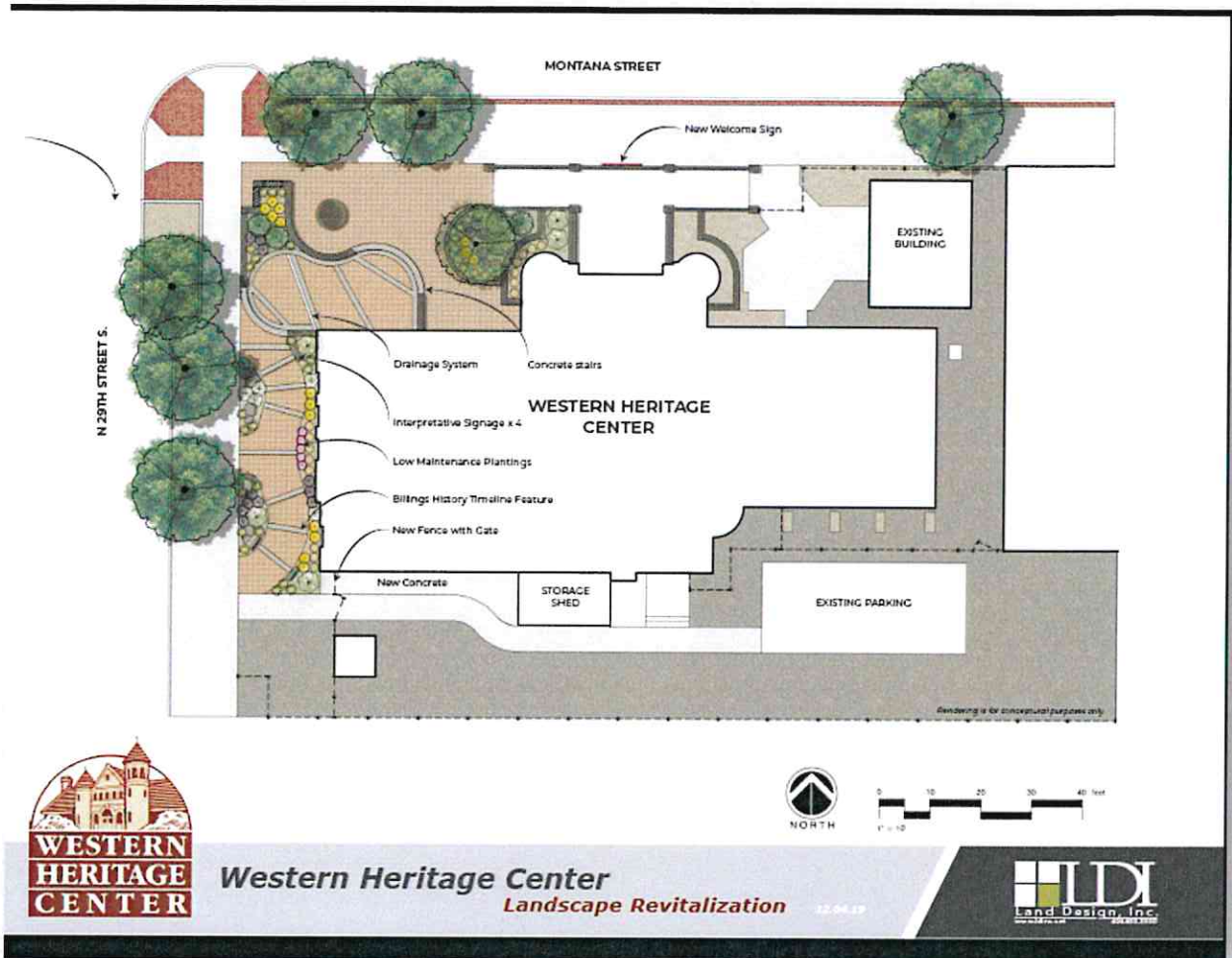
LANDSCAPE PROJECT DRAWINGS (Page 2)



LANDSCAPE PROJECT DRAWINGS (Page 3)

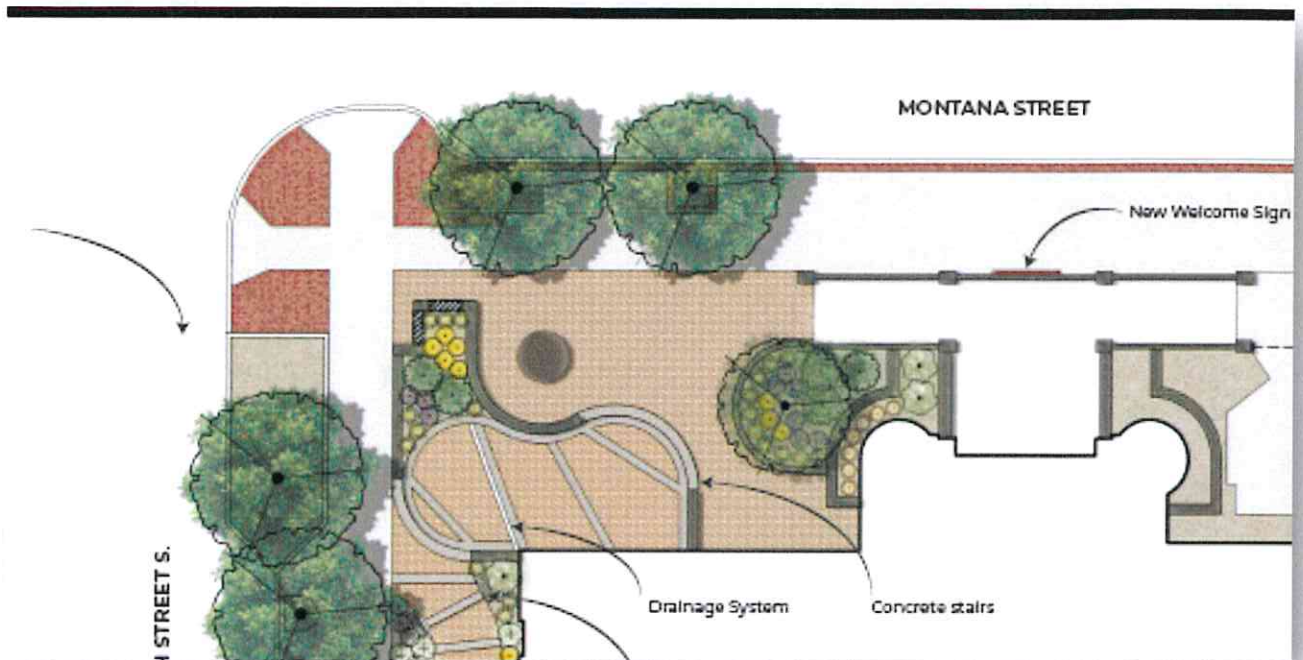


LANDSCAPE PROJECT DRAWINGS (Page 4)

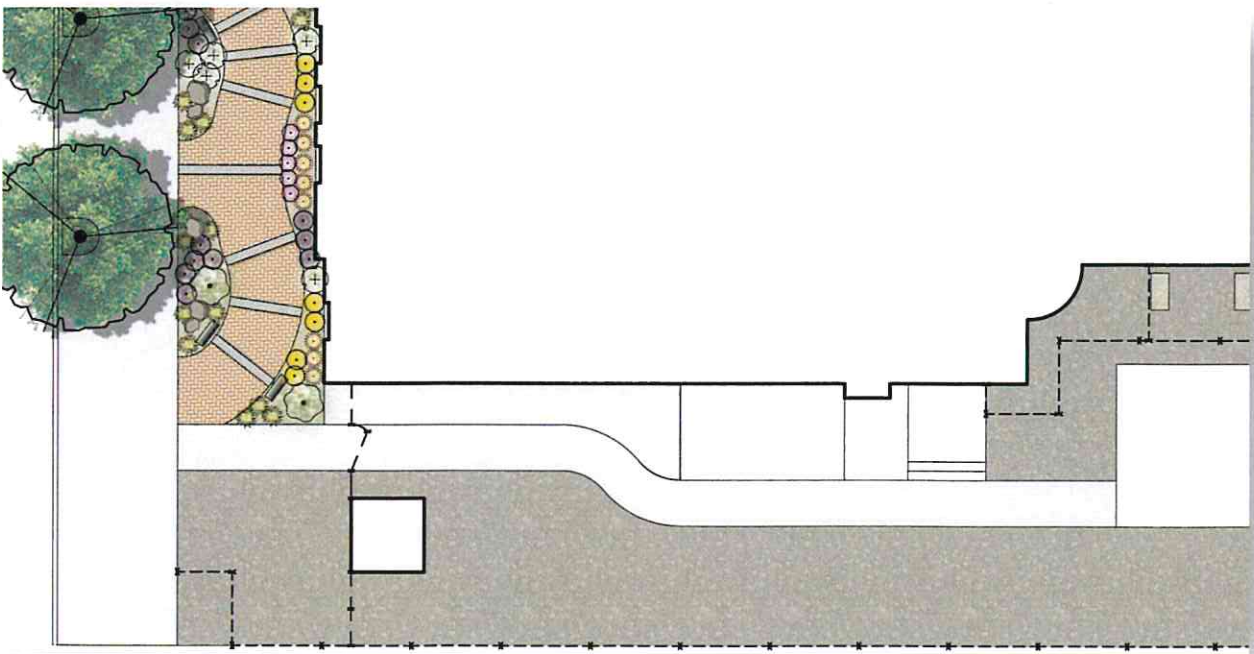


LANDSCAPE PROJECT DRAWINGS (Page 5)

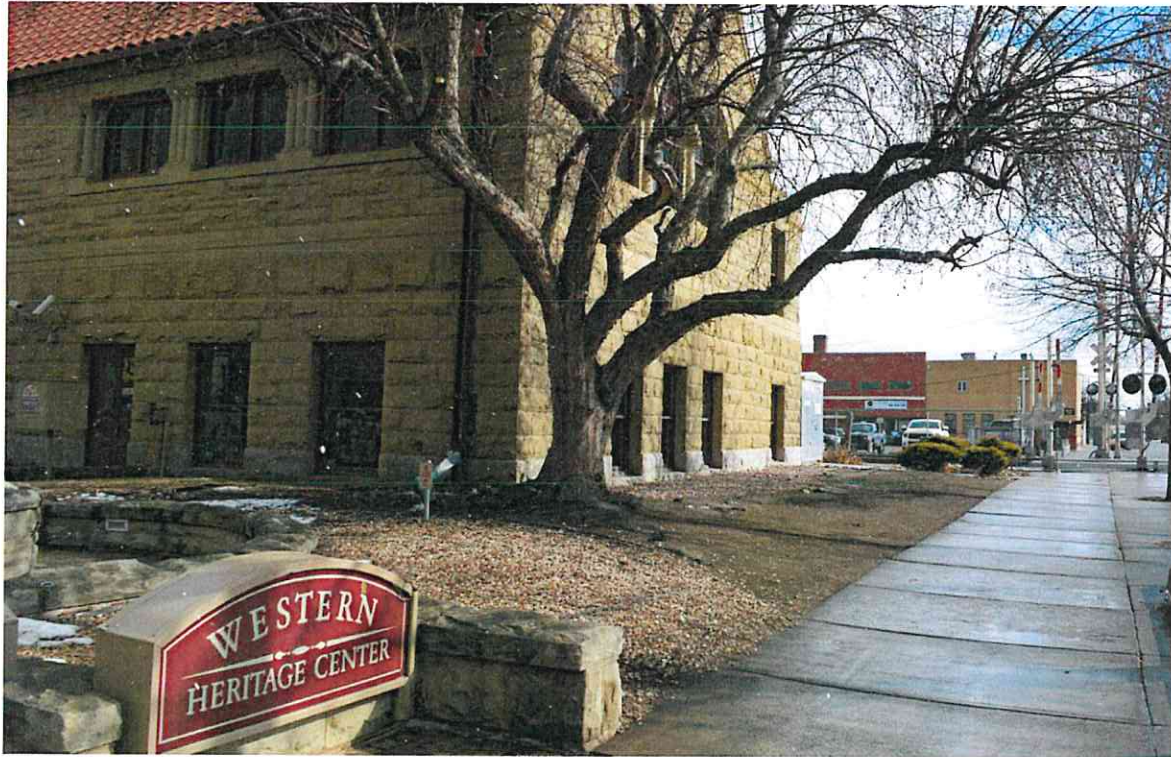
Closer - NW corner and statue area.



Closer - SW corner with new fencing to stop flow through traffic.



LANDSCAPE PROJECT DRAWINGS (Page 6)



2019 Snapshots of west and northwest side of the property.

